

State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
Sierra District Headquarters
P.O. Box 266
Tahoma, CA. 96142

PROJECT TITLE: Trail System and Watershed Improvements

LOCATION: Ward Creek Property

COUNTY: Placer

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Improve the existing trail system within the Ward Creek Property to protect environmental resources. Specified work will meet accessibility standards as described in the "California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines".

Road/Trail Removal: Remove approximately eight trail segments that total approximately 800 to 1000 feet long by 3 to 5 feet wide and remove approximately 600 to 800 feet long by 10 to 14 foot wide logging road located on steep to moderate grades or in natural drainages and a meadow. De-compact the trail bed through the meadow area; apply a native seed mix and install sod plugs in selected locations to the de-compacted soil and mulch the soil surface using native duff to provide cover. De-compact all other road/beds; excavate and place the soil in adjacent berms back into the de-compacted road/trail beds; re-contour the road/trail alignments to match the natural topography; mulch with native duff to provide soil cover allowing native vegetation to establish and place large woody debris on the restored road to provide seedling and wildlife habitat and discourage recreational use and runoff.

Trail Installation: Install approximately 1500 to 1800 linear feet by 4 feet wide of new trail segments (re-alignment) to replace poorly aligned routes which will be restored to a natural condition. Contour and out-slope new trail segments on slopes to provide overland sheet water drainage and crown new segments in flat areas for lateral drainage; install turnpikes and causeways. Construct a connector trail for public access from adjacent neighborhood near Ward Creek. In the meadow area install a combination of turnpikes, punchcons and crowned trail segments to protect meadow vegetation and reduce erosion which will meet "California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines". Install a gate near an existing parking area; enhance parking area along Timberland Drive and install two signs near the community center and on highway 89 to identify trailheads to the Ward Creek Property trail system.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Sierra District

EXEMPT STATUS:

☒ Categorical Exemption Class: 1, 3, 4, 11 Section: 15301, 15303, 15304, 15311

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of the repair and minor alteration of an existing facilities involving no expansion of use beyond current levels; construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; minor alteration in the condition of land and vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy mature, scenic trees except for forestry purposes; and placement of minor structures

accessory to (appurtenant to) existing facilities; includes as "modifications of existing facilities for handicap access", "construction or installation of park facilities, such as signs, fencing and gates", "trail construction or realignment" and "trail removal" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR§ 15300.4.

CONTACT: Diane Cassano
Sierra District

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Original Signed By: _____
Pam Armas District Superintendent

DATE _____